on 'personal/ad-hoc' basis against the upgraded posts. If any of the officers happens to be on leave, deputation etc. he will be given the benefit of personal upgradation from the date he assumes duty in the cadre post.

(2) The Railway Board Secretariat Service Group 'B' Officers Association, enclosing a copy of this Office Memorandum dated 28.09.98 of Department of Personnel & Training, represented for similar upgradation from the grade of Section Officers/Desk Officers in Railway Board to the grade of Under Secretary/Deputy Director.

(3) The Railway Board Secretariat Service is patterned on the lines of Central Secretariat Service. The representation of the Railway Board Secretariat Service Group 'B' Officers' Association, was therefore considered in the light of personal upgradations effected in Central Secretariat Service and keeping in view the existing and forthcoming stagnation due to enhancement of retirement age from 58 years to 60 years etc.

(4) After due consideration, the competent authority have since approved for upgradation of 40 posts of Section Officers/Desk Officers of Railway Board to the grade of Under Secretaries/Deputy Directors, on personal basis, on the lines of the similar upgradations effected in Central Secretariat Service. However, no formal order, in this regard have yet been issued.

(5) The incumbents of the upgraded posts Section Officers/Desk Officers to the grade of Under Secretaries/Deputy Directors will continue to perform the same functions as they are doing at present and shall, therefore, continue to sit in their present accommodation. There is no humiliation involved in this as the proposal accords them a higher grade of pay as also higher status.

**Basic amenities at Railway Stations**

1540. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the means to ensure that all basic amenities are provided at every station, especially in remote areas;

(b) the number of surprise checking of passenger amenities provided at a station, especially in South Central and South Eastern Railways, made during the last one year; and

(c) the result of the checks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Yearly data of passenger amenities available at all stations is collected by the Railways and any deficiency found is rectified. In addition some special surveys are also undertaken. The last such survey was conducted during January, 1998 and all Zonal Railways including South Central and South Eastern Railways have confirmed availability of basic amenities at all stations.

Surprise checks are conducted by the railway officials from time to time in which one of the aspect checked is the passenger amenities. During the last one year, 1550 such surprise checks by South Central and 742 by South Eastern Railways were conducted. Minor deficiencies noticed during these checks were got rectified on the spot.

**Rail over-bridge at Jajpur-Keonjhar road**

1541. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: